Interesting Diary of an Overland Journey Sufferings and Mortality of the Party-Description of the Coun try, &c.

We present to our readers this morning, the following very interesting account of a journey across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, by a party of Americans, who arrived here within a day or two.

It seems they embarked in the Powhattan, Capt. F. Hopkins, at San Francisco for Panama, and that the vessel got short of wa'er and provisions when she was only twenty days at sea. On the fifteenth of November, during a calm, and when the vessel was about six miles from land, the capsain called for volunteers to man the boat and search for the harbor of Santa Maria, and procure water if possible. Ten of them volunteered to do so. To their surprise and amazement, however, they saw the vessel take advantage of a breeze which sprung up while they were in the boat, and put to sea again. They were accordingly left on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in a destitute condition. They determined upon making their way to Vera Cruz, which place they succeeded in reaching, after undergoing dreadful hardships. Four of the ten died on the way of cholera. At Vera Cruz they fortunately fell in with the expedition which sailed from New Orleans to survey a line of railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, by the members of which they were treated with great kindness. Mr. McPherson, one of the owners of the steamship Alabama, sympathized with them in their misfortunes, provided them with money to purchase clothing, and gave them a free passage to New Orleans. The following is a list of the survivors of the expedition :- Eugene Ring, of New York ; Joseph S. Wyman, Boston James Walker, Boston; William Dupuy, Boston James Barker, Boston; I. W. Woodward, Long Island, New York.

The general impression is, that the vessel in which they embarked from San Francisco was not driven to sea; the conduct of the captain is, therefore, unaccountable. The following is the

Nov. 22d - While lying becalmed, within five or six miles of the shore, Captain Hopkins requested Captain Kellogg to pick out a volunteer boat's crew from among the passengers, and go on shore to try and find the harbor of Sama Maris, near which from among the passengers, and go on shore to try and find the harbor of Sama Maria, near which port he supposed, from his reckoning, the ship then was. Our object was to water and provision the ship, as we had suffered for want of both for two weeks. Ten of us, including Capt. K., left the vessel about eight o'clock, A. M., and pulled for the shore, having first put in the boat a small breaker of water, and a little hard bread and beef, as we expected to be gone nearly all day. Soon after leaving the ship a light wind sprung up from off the land, and the ship stood out to sea. She made no signal for us to come on board, and we supposed they would tack, and stand in and pick us up; but about twelve o'clock we lost sight of her. After pulling down the coast about three hours longer—the wind by this time blowing a gale, and the sea running very high—we found that our boat tool do not live long in such weather, and determined to put her ashore, which we dared not do, but as a last resource. This we accomplished in safety, through a tremendous surf, and, had our boat not been as well managed as she was, but few of us would have reached the land. Two of the party timediately elimbed to the top of a high promontory which made out into the sea, but could see nothing of our ship. They discovered a rancho a few miles back in the country, and after hauling our boat far up on the beach, we all started towards it. We found some Mexicans here, who were very friendly, and of whom we bought some fowls and eggs, and, returning to the boat, cooked our supper, wrapped ourselves in the few blankets and coalb we had brought with us, and lying down in the sand, slept until morning, when we all returned to athe rancho for provisions; and about noon one of our party went down to the beach to see the boat, which he found the wind had blown about sixty yards from where we had left it, and atove it in pieces on the rocks.

We remained here till the 25th, and then started

stove it in pieces on the rocks.

We remained here till the 25th, and then started for San Mateo, twenty-one miles down the coast, where we arrived about sundown, and were taken by our guide to a house where we could get some food and sleep. Our route to this place was part of food and sleep. Our route to this place was part on the way very mountainous, and part on the sea-beach. When about half way, we crossed the mouth of the Tehusatepec river, fording it within two hundred yards of its mouth—the water reach-ing to our waists. We saw at least fifty very large

ang to our wassis. We saw at least lifty very large altigators, lying sunning themselves on the banks, or awimming builty along, their noses just poking up above the surface of the water.

We left San Mateo on the 26th, for Santa Maria, about nine miles farther down the coast—travelling nearly the whole distance on the sea beach and along a large liagoon. The fresh waters here are filled with fish, and on the banks of the rivers and lakes are abundance of water fowl, and the country is alive with game. We found Santa Ma-ria to be a small town, of about four hundred inharia to be a small town, of about four hundred inhabitants, living in cane huts, thatched with palm leaves—the only dress of the women being a couple of yards of colored cloth, fastened around the wait. The men are a little better provided for, wearing large loose trougers, and over their shoulders a coarse shirt. They appear to be a kind and gentle people, but lazy and indolent—living on tortillas, which are hard, thin corn cakes, fish, and such fruit as nature turnishes them. We learned that a Mexican surveying party were stationed some nine miles farther down, one of whom spoke English; and ac-cordingly one of our companions started off to see them, and gain the necessary information for cross-ing the Isthmus.

27th -Weireturned to San Mateo, through which 27th — Wejreturned to San Mateo, through which town we had to pass on our route, and on the 28th hired horses and a guide for the city of Tehauntepec, twenty-four miles distant. We travelled over a splendid road, passing through a very level and beautiful country, but thinly covered with timber, and with an excellent soil, and yet not the least agn of cultivation until within a mile or two of the city, when we saw a few corn plantations. On our arrival in the city we were surrounded by of the city, when we saw a few corn plantations. On our arrival in the city we were surrounded by a great 'crowd of Indians, women and children, who gazed at us with much curiosity. From what I could learn we were the first party of Americans who had crossed the country. Everything was in a state of confusion; the cholera was raging, and the rity was expecting every moment to be attacked by the forces of Gen. Melendez, an insurgent chief, who was at the head of an army of the "Juchteca" Indians. Many of the streets and principal public buildings were barricaded and fortified, and all seemed to feel, as they expressed it, "mucho vallente." We were taken to the Governor, to whom we explained our situation, and were quartered by his orders in the hospital.

quartered by his orders in the hospital.

The city contains about 15,000 inhabitants, mostly lasticus. All the offices, and nearly all the trade, are in the hands of Spaniards and Mexicans. The better part of the town is built of stone; the buildings are low, and like all Spanish buildings, open on a court in the centre, presenting only the

des to the street.

The Telegraphic river runs along one side of the city, and it is here a very small stream. Upon this the inhabitants depend for all the water they use. On the same evening we arrived, one of our party, Captain Kellogg, of Hartford, Conn, was attacked by the cholers, and the next morning, 29th, Henry Cram, of Boston, was taken with the same disease, and died in twentyfour hours. Both of our sick friends had every attention. was of no avail. The Governor gave us our pass-ports to travel through the country, and we accord-ingly purchased our horses, and made the neces-sary arrangements to continue our journey. Capt. Kellogg was very sick, and the Governor promised

Kellogg was very sick, and the Governor promised to send him on to Vera Cruz if he recovered. In On the 20th we left for Chiuatan, twenty-seven miles distant, where we arrived about sundown, having travelled over quite a level country, most of it covered with a dense chaparel, and some forests of small trees. At this town another of our party, James Wotherspoon, of New-York, was attacked by the cholera, and we were obliged to leave him, after making provision for his being taken care of.

On her, ist we set out for El Bario, twenty-

taken care of

On Dec. 1st we set out for El Bario, twentyene miles from this place. We travelled till the
middle of the afternoon, over a very rough and barmiddle of the afternoon, over a very rough and barren country, the trail (for there are no roads across
the mountains) being just wide enough for a single
horseman to pass, sometimes leading through the
dried up bed of the mountain stream, our
horses stumbling over the stones and rocks;
at other times running along the verge of high
steep precipices, that would make one dizzy to
look on, with barely room for our horses to walk,
and then down steep and narrow cuts that had
been worn by males and washed out by the
water running through them, making just room
for a single horse to walkt—he walls of earth
rose high above our heads on both sides; many
places being so steep that steps had been worn or
out in the rock to assist the animals in climbing.
After we had reached the summit of the mountains, one of our companions was taken sick with
the cholera, and unable to proceed. We therefore
halted, picketed our horses, built a fire, and made
the best arrangements we could for taking
care of our friend. There were so inhabiof our friend. There were no within a couple of leagues, and r medicine food nor water. On

water, which were soon all consumed, and we could get no more. During the night, another was taken sick, and the rest of us were worn down and weakened by fatigue and a continued diarrhema. We had but few clothes or blankets, and to aggravate our miserable situation, a cold drizzling rain came on, which lasted nearly all night; the sick were crying for water, and one of them constantly begging and entreating us to kill him and put him out of misery, or to give him a weapon that he might do it himself. Early in the morning, of the 2d, the remaining ave pushed on to El Bario, one of the party returning with water and food from the first raucho, and the rest, on their arrival in town immediately sent back a number of men with litters to bring in the sick. We remained here until the 4th. Leaving our two sick friends with a Spanish merchant who had treated us very kindly while there, and who paid every attention to those placed in his care. We arrived in San Juan de Guichicopa. 18 miles distant, towards evening. This is an Indian to wa, of about 5,000 inhabitants, living in cane thatched huts, and in the most primitive manner. The only stone building is the cathedral, which is now nearly in ruins; the roof covering the body of the church has fallen in, leaving a single arch standing alone, and spanning from wall to wall, at the height of about seventy, ge feet. The front part, where is the altar, is still covered, and is taken care of, the old Padre performing regular services therein. Around the walls, and in crevices and on benches, are placed small woodea boxes, open in front, containing little old time-worn and dingy images; before some are burning candles, and before some are placed small woodea boxes, open in front, containing little old time-worn and dingy images; before some are burning candles, and before some are placed small woodea boxes, open in front, containing little old time-worn and dingy images; before some are burning candles, and before some are placed boxed, when the religion; whatever he does i across rapid brooks, sometimes our horses sticking fast in the deep mire while crossing patches of low land. At evening we reached the river, and found a shed under which we could sleep, and,

fow land. At evening we reached the river, and tound a shed under which we could sleep, and, what was of more consequence, a canoe, which would save us the trouble of building a raft, in which, the next morning, the 9th, we embarked to reach Mantitlan, one hundred and twenty-fivy miles down the river.

The river is here about one hundred yards wide, and, just at this point, of considerable depth; but, for firty or seventy-five miles down, there are many rapids and many bars, reaching nearly across the river, leaving a very narrow channel of deep water. The land is high, and both banks covered to the water's edge with an apparently impenetrable forest. Further down, the river is broader and deeper, and freer from impediments, the land lower, but still thickly covered with timber; game abounds, and birds of the most beautiful and brilliant plumage—macaws, parrots, and toucans—flying about, and the larger trees are filled with monkeys, who seemed to regard us with a and brilliant plumage—macaws, parrots, and toucans—flying about, and the larger trees are filled
with monkeys, who seemed to regard us with a
great deal of curiosity as we sailed along beneath
them. At night there was a continual roaring of
tigers on either side of the river, sounding as
if a hundred menageries had been let loose.
For the first night on the river we camped
on one of the numerous sand-bars, but could
get but little rest, from the quantities of
mosquitoes buzzing around like a swarm of bees.
These persevering little fellows would get at us,
do what we could, and our only resource was to
get up and walk around until so weary that we
could sleep in spite of them. The next night we
continued pulling all night, part of the time a
heavy rain drenching us to the skin, and about
noon of the lith we reached Minititis.

This is a town of about one thous ndinhabitants,
eighteen miles from the mouth of the river. We
here expected to find a vess 1 to carry us to Vera
Cruz, but we learned that the only one that had
been plying there had been wrecked a short
time before, and our only resource was to
go from here by land; and accordingly we
set out the same afternoon for Jalipan, fifteen
miles distant, where we arrived the same evening,
after passing through quite a large Indian town.

In the morning, 12th, we hired horses for San
Juan, on the river of the same name, forty-eight
miles distant; and after riding all day, passing
through several Indian towns, we stopped at a
rancho a short distance from the trail; and as we
could not arouse the natives we wrapped ourselves
in our blankets, laid on the ground under an open

could not arouse the natives we wrapped ourselves in our blankets, laid on the ground under an open shed, and slept until morning, as well as the fleas shed, and slept until morning, as well as the fleas and the cold wind would permit. Early next day we reached the river, having travelled over a level and beautiful country, with a soil rich and fertile, but uncultivated, covered, on many parts, with hea-

vy and valuable timber.

On the 14th, hired a canoe to carry us down the river a hundred and five miles, and after being cramped up in a narrow little "dug out" over two days, but sailing on a mest beautiful river, through a constant change of scenery that the eye could not tire of looking at, and meeting many amusing inci-dents, we reached Tlacotalpan, a fine city, con-taining about 8,000 inhabitants, and a place of

ome trade and manufactures.
On the 18th, we took passage on board a small Mexican schooner for Vera Cruz, at which city we arrived on the 20th. We found here the steamer Alabama for New Orleans, via Minititlan, and took passage on board of her. At this place we found one of the sick that had been left behind, who had one of the sick that had been left behind, who had sufficiently recovered to come on thus far. He brought us information of the death of the two others who had been left sick, making four lost out of the original ten who left the ship. We arrived in New Orleans on the 11th of Janua-ry, 1851, happy enough to be once more on Ameri-

Our Isthmus Correspondence. GATUN STATION OF THE PANAMA RAIL ROAD, January 23d, 1851.

The Progress of the Panama Railroad-Steam

pring-Old Forts, &c
This is the first of a series of letters I shall from ime to time write you, giving you an account of our progress and proceedings on this road. In the first place, the work, for the first, was commenced about the lat of December last; and considering the great disadvantages the company has laboured under, owing to climate and other causes, not at the mement anticipated, it has progressed with an usparalleled and successful rapidity. The road commences at Navy Bay, about twelve miles, eastward of Chagres, and running about seven miles con nects with this station, situated on the Chagres river; thence running about eight miles connects with the station called Bohio Soldado, also situated on the river. About two miles from here, the Gatun the river. About two miles from here, the Gatun river, a stream of about three hundred feet wide, and thirty feet deep will be crossed. The Chagres river will be crossed about one mile this side of Gorgona, where the water is very shallow. The distance from Navy Bay by railroad rotte to Gorgona will be twenty-six miles. You may assure your numerous readers of the Herald that the road will now be completed in the shortest time possible, and in a very substantial and satisfactory manner.

possible, and in a very substantial and satisfactory manner.

At the rate the road is now advancing, a distance of one mile will be fully completed by each and every month, which, compared with the work dose in the United States relatively, will give us an unequivocal and decided advantage of time as to duration over the former in most cases.

There will be from ten to fifteen miles of pile driving, which is done in a very expeditious manner, by means of steam. There are at present, five vessels here unloading piles from New York, they are towed up by steamboats.

rease here unloading piles from New York, they are towed up by steamboats.

The chief engineer of the work is Coi. Totten, a gentleman of most amiable manners, and kind disposition. He has been engaged in this country for several years, at Carthagena, in the canal works, and is much experienced in the science, and resources of the country. The superintendent of this station, Gatun, is Mr. Truesdail, a gentleman of most active habits, efficient and strenuous in the advencement of the work, kind and attentive to the men, unceasing in his efforts to advance their commen, unceasing in his efforts to advance their commen, unceasing in his efforts to advance their commost active habits, efficient and strenuous in the advancement of the work, kind and attentive to the men, unceasing in his efforts to advance their comfort, and in fine is both brother and father to all. He is from Etie Pa, where he had been engaged for a long time as contractor and superintendent of various works, both public and private, and of course possesses experience, and is here a most valuable acquisition to the company. I shall in my next to yon, furnish some statistics of this road and country, which I may become acquainted with in the mean time. There are various forts on this river, with their cannon and ball still in them, grown up with trees, &c. They are supposed to be built two hundred years ago, or in the days of Pizarro. As yet, I have not been able to obtain any account of their history. I shall probably remain here this season, (lat June) then I shall either terum to New Yorks or go to Panama, and return to the works of the company next December.

This is now called the dry and healthy season, although there are some showers every day. The rainy season, as it is called, will commence about the middle of May, when it will be impossible to advance the work much until next November.— Most of the men will return to their homes, and come out again with renewed vigour and strength. The thermometer stands now at eighty degrees.—

The sickness here consists principally of chills and fever, very similar to that which people has experience in Michigan, and other Western States. In fact, I am satisfied that men from the North-Western parts of the States can stand the climate, and especially labour, better than the natives; and with great care, avoiding exposure to the sun and rains, a person may go through without any sickness. For my part, I shall try the experiment.

Gur Washington Correspondence. WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1861.

The Presidential Election-The Chances-General Scott, &c.

After comparing notes, the democrats, North and South, and of the Middle and Western States, have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely necessary for them to present a united front in all the States of this Union, if the democratic candidate shall have the smallest chance of success in the next Presidential campaign. They now calculate that, without such a union, there is no chance for the democratic candidate to go even

chance for the democratic candidate to go even into the House, as a whig candidate would be certain of being chosen by the people.

The following is the process of reasoning:—Suppesing a candidate is selected who is unpopular North, and who possibly might lead to a separate organization of the barnburners. These the ultra North having their candidate, the ultra South would run an opposition man of their own, and in case three candidates run on the democratic side, what would be the chance of the regular nominee? He might possibly carry New Hampshire, after a struggle, and, perhaps, Maine. The rest of New England would go whig, by an overwhelming majority. Pennsylvania would be lost on the tariff, as it was in 1848. Maryland would be whig; and Virginia, with a Southern candidate running by the side of the nominee of the convention, would be whig; to all intents and purposes. Mississippi would be whig; Georgia would be whig; and, in all probability, Louisiana and Florida. South Carolina would fight on her own hook; Kentucky would be whig, along with Tennessee; and Ohio would only be carried with great difficulty. To sum up, the whig candidate, provided he be not an abolitionist or a native American, or tinctured with any of the prevailing isms of the day, would be abolitionist or a native American, or tractured with

abolitionist or a native American, or tinctured with any of the prevailing isms of the day, would be sure of carrying the following States:—

Massachusetts, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Verment, Tennessee, Connecticut, Louisiana, New York, Ohio.
Penneylvania, Georgia, Hordina, Virginia, Missouri, And, perhape, North Carohna; and would thus be elected by a triumphant majority. If the democrats went to succeed, the presidential question must not be raised at all, and no candidate fixed upon before the national convention has made him.

crats want to succeed, the presidential question must not be raised at all, and no candidate fixed upon before the national convention has made him. Barnburners and nullifiers must be invited to join it, and a candidate selected, who shall at last be agreed upon by all as a compromise President, with a distinct understanding, that all who have entered the convention shall stand pledged to his support; that a universal amnesty shall be published; and, that henceforth, no political test shall be applied to any man who is willing to stand by the constitution, and the settlement of the slavery question, as agreed upon at the last session of Congress. Any other course is sure to defeat the democratic nominee, whoever he may be.

I see that Gen. Scott is nominated in Indiana. Gen. Scott is evidently a strong man; but his native Americanism and his free soil alliances will yet kill him. Gov. Seward, by nature a very confiding man, is willing to take Gen. Scott for better for worse, asking no questions; but the southern whig members of congress entertain an opposite opinion, and believe that, just because Gov. Seward is satisfied, therefore, it is becoming in them to make the general commit himself on paper. The South were taken in once, and do not wish to be taken in again, and revive the Galphins. If Gen. Scott's answer to the South is not entirely satisfactory, an independent southern candidate will be started against him, which may grove fatal to the Scott's answer to the South is not entirely satisfactory, an independent southern candidate will be
started against him, which may prove fatal to the
whig cause. The greater probability, however, is,
that the convention will drop Scott, and nominate
either Webster, Clay, or Fillmore. The National
Intelligener here tavors the election of Scott; the
Republic is openly in favor of Webster or Fillmore.
The present Congress will not be able to fix en
any presidential candidate.
P.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1851. Time Running Short-Work to be Done-Th, Public Printing, &c.

Mr. Bayly, Chairman of Ways and Means called the attention of the House to the fact to-day, that the following appropriation bills have yet to be

that the following appropriation bills have yet to be acted upon, to wit:—

The Civil and Diplomatic bill.

The Army bill.

The Post Office bill.

The Fortification bill.

The Fortification bill.

The Hodian bill.

The Hevolutionary Pension bill.

The Naval Pension bill.

The Naval Pension bill.

These are the indispensable annual appropriation bills, necessary to keep the wheels of government in operation, and the 50,000 dependants upon the treasury their stated supply of bread and butter. They have to be passed, and they have all first to pass the House before the Senate can touch any one of them. In the meantime, the Senate can amuse itself on cheap postages, and the deficiencies of the last year's appropriations. But we have our misgivings respecting the following subjects —

The French Spolation bill of five millions.

jects -The French Spoliation bill of The French Sponation
The Ebony steamship line to Africa.
The Rio Janeiro and Philadelphia inac.
The San Francisco and Canton line.
The Free Farm bill, for settling every body on the public lands free of cost.
Whitney's Pacific Railroad bill.
Benton's magnificent project.
The River and Harbor bill.
The subject of Home Protection.

Western Armery.

Benton's magnificent project.

The River and Harbor buil.

The subject of Home Protection.

The bill for a Western Armery.

And numerous others, public and private. Several of these, however, could be passed readily enough, if the House could get a fair swing at them; but a two-third vote being required to lift a bill out of its order, if any member should object, makes the case extremely doubtful. If we get cheap postages and the annual appropriations, we shall be doing very well. All the rest will be clear gain. Cheap postages will also be clear gain.

We understand that Mr. John C. Rives has secured a large share of the public printing, under contract, for the next Congress, at prices less than Father Ritchie's. If this be so, Father Ritchie must have made money, or Rives must calculate for indemnity for all losses, under the idea that Mr. Ritchie will be indemnified. This sort of thing will be so till we have a national printing office.

Washington, February S. 1861.

WASHINGTON, February 8, 1851. Mr. Souier's Recall from Central America-The Nicaragua Treaty-Reason why it was not acted upon-A Brief History of the Affair, and how Matters at present stand.

A correspondent of the Herald, writing in New fork, asks, in speaking of affairs in Central Aine rica, "Why was the former Charge (Mr. Squier) withdrawn? or why was he not immediately re-placed?" The latter question might best be anwered by the Secretary of State; but in the abence of such authority, perhaps the facts of the case may throw some light upon it.

In the first place, Mr. Squier was not removed, in the strict sense of the term, by Mr. Clayton, the ormer Secretary of State. For some time previous to Mr. Squier's return, Mr. Clayton became convinced that he had not the requisite calibre for to important and delicate a mission as the one he

convinced that he had not the requisite calibre for to important and delicate a mission at the one he was entrusted with; but, nevertheless, as he had displayed energy of a certain kind, and a desire to do what he could, there was no intention of removing him. It was, however, in contemplation to give him some other position under the government. About this time Mr. Squier applied for leave of absence, to return home, which was given him for an indefinite period. Meanwhile General Taylor died; and Mr. Squier, impatient that his services were not called into instant requisition, wrote a series of letters, reflecting, in very had taste, upon the new administration. Of course, after this, all idea of further employing him was necessarily abandoned. Had he remained quiet, it is not improbable he would have been appointed to some suitable position. So much as to the withdrawal of the former Charge.

The treaty negotiated by Mr. Squier with the government of Niceragua arrived here in due time, and was sent by President Taylor to the Senate it was there referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the chairman of that committee, Mr. King of Alabama, at once discovered that several of its provisions conflicted with the terms of the treaty with England, which was also before the Senate for confirmation at the time. The principal difficulty, I believe, was the giving this country-exclusive privileges in the construction of the cenal. When Mr. King pointed out these defects to Mr. Clayton, that gentleman drew up the necessary smendments, and sent for the Nicaragua charge des affaires, Senor Carcachee, and represented the difficulty to him. One would imagine that there would have been but little embarrassment in adjusting the matter; nor would there have been if it had been possible to make the Senor comprehend. But the Nicaragua government had been unfortunate in their selection of a

diplomatic agent, and after consuming week after week in the vain attempt to make Senor Carcachee

diplomatic agent, and after consuming week after week in the vain attempt to make Senor Carcachee understand, Mr. Clayton, in despair, wrote to the authorities of Nicaragua, begging them to either send their charge full and explicit directions, or to send on here some suitable person to negotiate a treaty. The Nicaragua government took the hint, and appointed Senor Marcelletti as charge ces affairs to this country, who it is pressumed has full powers, and the necessary ability to complete the business.

Thus matters stood when Mr. Webster becams Secretary of State; and it is reasonable to suppose, that, as he was daily expecting the arrival of the new Nicaraguan minister, charged expressly to negotiate a full and satisfactory treaty, that he considered it better to await his coming, and have a complete understanding of the case before appointing a charge from this country, whose principal business will be to take care that the provisions of the treaty, when made, are carried out properly.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1851. The Quarrel between Mr Clayton and Mr. Pous-sin-Monsieur Port and Monsieur Domercy's Tobacco Boxes--A Bill of Relief Reported in the

Senate.

The quarrel between Mr. Clayton, late Secretary of State, and Mr. Poussin, late French Minister at Washington, on the subject of a quantity of tobacco seized of certain Frenchmen in Puebla, Mexico, by the American army, and appropriated, is a matter of history. It cannot fail to recall the ridicule and laughter with which this teapot explosion was received all over the country. French tobacco merchant most interested, failing to get anything of Mr. Clayton, has petitioned the Senate for relief, and the Committee on Claims

The Committee of Claims to whom was referred the

upon which the bill is made out:

The Committee of Chains to whom was referred the memorial of Den B. Juan Domercq report:

That General Worth, commanding the advance of the army under General scott entered Puebla in Mexico, in May, 1847, and, finding a quantity of tobacco stored in that city belonging to the Mexican government, caused it to be seized and sold for the benefit of the United States. The whole quantity—two thousand and eighty-oxe bales—was accordingly sold at public auction by Major Allen, of the quartermaster's department, to Mr. L. S. Hargous, at ten dollars a bale, amounting to twenty thousand eight hundred and ten dollars. Mr. Hargous paid Major Allen, 55.00 in cash, and the balance in supplies for the army, for which Najor Allen has duly accounted. On the sixth of June foliowing, Mr. Hargous could the 2081 bales of tobacco to Don B. Juan Domercq, the claimant, for twenty dollars a bale, amounting to forty-one thousand six hundred and twenty-fire bales of this tobacco were at the times of the sales aforesaid deposited in the quartel (sublic barracks) of San Jose, occupied by the American troops, and the remainder in other places in the city.

It appears, also, that two hundred and nineteen bales of the tobacco deposited in other places than the quartel, were, some time in August following deposited by the claimant in the house No. 6 Second atreet, of San Jose, near the quarters of Colonel Childs. The thirteen hundred and twenty five bales and the two hundred and nineteen bales were locked up, and the claimant had the keys.

The claimant alleges—and there is no evidence in the case contradicting his allegation—that the whole quantity of tobacco deposited in each of said places remained there till selzed, by order of Colonel Childs, at the time of the slege of Puebla by the guerillas, in September following. At the time of the slege of Puebla had quartel, which he supposed to belong to the United States, to be taken and used in constructing parapets on the houses, in barricaling the streets, and

Headquartess, Department or Puebla, 2
I certify that, during the siege of Puebla, a quantity of tobacco, the number of baies not known, was taken from a house on thesecond square from San José supposed at the time to beleng to Mexicans, and a lawful capture; that these bales of tobacco were used as barricades and breastworks in the streets and on the houses; that a great number of baies were taken from San José, supposed to belong to the United States, and placed on the roof of that building, and others taken to complete burricades, &c. &c., that most, if not all, of this tobacco was exposed for three weeks during the rainy season and must have been to a great extent, rendered entirely wotthless. For a more particular narrative of the tobacco business, I refer to my testimeny before the commission

THOMAS CHILDS, Colonel U. S. Army.

Mr. William Spenor: the agent and interpreter of

my testimery before the commission.

THOMAS CHILDS. Colonel U. S. Army.

Mr. William Spencer. the agent and interpreter of
Captain Webster, testifies that, "after the siege commenced, he was ordered by Colonel Childs to break
open the doors of the quartel and house No. 6 Second
street of San Jose, and to use the tobacco in them in
oenstructing breastworks. &c., for the defence of the
American troops." "All the bales in both houses were
turned out, and used during the steets!" "This was
during the rainy season and some bales were destroyed
and spoiled by exposure to the sun and rain. When
the siege was over, the tobacco was again deposited in
the quartel. That he put locks on the doors of the
quartel at three different times, and the doors were as
often broken open and tobacco taken out. That American roldiers were frequently confined in the guardhouse, under charge for steating it." Mr. Spencer further states, that "there must have been at least two
hundred bales stolen out of the quartel after it was deposited there the account time, and that there were at
least twenty bales applied by the weather and given to
the American troops during the siege."

Soon after the eige. Colonel Childs directed Quartermaster Webster to advertise and sell the tobacco that
remained; and five hundred bales were accordingly
seld at \$22 a bale. Colonel Childs being informed
by Doctor Schadler and the Spanish Vice-coasu, of Mr.
Domereq's claim to the tobacco, he ordered the raie to
be stopped, and that all that remained on hand he
divred to the claimant. Under this order, three hundred
and twenty-three bales were delivered to the
claimant. Soon atterwards the five hundred to hales

Domereq's claim to the tobacco, he ordered the raie to be stopped, and that all that remained on hand he delivered to the claimant. Under this order three hundred and twenty-three bales were delivered to the claimant. Scon atterwards, the five hundred bales which had been sold as above stated, were recovered back and delivered to him—making in all eight hundred and twenty three bales of the one thousand five hundred and twenty three bales of the one thousand five hundred and twenty three bales of the one thousand five hundred and twenty-four bales.

The committee are of spinion that the petitioner is entitled to relief for so much of the tobacco, not exceeding seven hundred and twenty one bales, as was destroyed or lest in consequence of its having been taken and used for purposes of defence by Colonel Childs.

Considerable evidence has been laid before the committee as to the price of tobacco at that time in Puebla. Quite a number of witnesses testify that tobacco was selling about that time from six to seven deliars the arroba. The arroba is one eighth of a bale, or twenty five pounds. But no testimony has been laid before them to show the price at wholesale or in large quantities, except the sales above referred to—of quartermaster Allen to Hargous, at \$10; of Hargous to the claimant. Domereq, at \$20; of Quartermaster Webster, of the five hundred bales, at \$22; and of this last purchases of the same five hundred bales, at \$24 the bale. Now aside from the fact that the latter are the wholesale auction prices, and the former the jobbers' and retailers' prices, it must be evident that, in the unsattled and dubious state of affairs at that time in Ruebla, the price of small quantities of an article like tobacco, for immediate use, might, and probably would, be even double that of large quantities of the same article stored in a besieged city, and liable to be sized and destroyed as any moment, and more especially, as in this case, when the article is stored in and about the time the committee think that the pric

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 1851. Who Will be the Next President !

In my last, I spoke of President Fillmore. this letter I shall speak of Mr. Webster. Yesterday, during the assembling of the two houses of Congress, to attend the funeral of Mr. Kauffman, very impressive spectacle was presented. After the representatives had assembled, and the body of the deceased had been brought in, the Sergeant at Arms announced the Senate of the United States, and that dignified body entered. Then followed the Supreme Court, and then came the President and his cabinet. Mr. Fillmore came up the sisle on Webster's arm; and although the former is a very fine looking man, yet a stranger would have undoubtedly taken Webster for the President. He sat in a large crimson velvet chair, is front of the Speaker, and by the side of the Chief Justice. The thick cloud seemed as even in front of the Speaker, and by the side of the Chief Justice. The thick cloud seemed as ever to hang over his mountain brain. His eyes lay back deep in his head; and I could not but observe that haif the other eyes in the crowded house, were fastened on him. Some one near me remarked, "Look at Webster! he is the greatest man in the nation." Another, "See Webster's head! God!

"Look at Webster! he is the greatest man in the nation." Another, "See Webster's head! God! what a brain."

And this is Daniel Webster. He has the greatest head in the nation. There is no other brain like his—it is vast, grand, impressive. He is the intellectual Colussus of the republic. But who will vote for him? Where is his party? What convention would nominate him? What State would give him its majority? Who really supposes he will ever be Presiden! And yet, what a President he would make! What an inaugural he would pronounce! What messages he would deliver! What a cabinet he would gather around him? What a sensation would it create among foreign nations when it was announced that the great creater of America—the greatest of our constitutional lawyers—the exponent of the constitution—the defender of the integrity of the Union—the suther of the despatch to the Austrian Minister, had been elected President of the great republic!

author of the despatch to the Austrian Minister, and been elected President of the great republic!

And yet I am inclined to believe that Mr. Webster is more appreciated where he is, and for what he has done, than he would be as chief magistrate. The country, I believe, considers him greater in

the offices and provinces he has filled, than the would expect him to be in a higher post. We have is one man who would vote for him a President, there are ten who would vote for him as Secretary of State, or Chief Justice of him as Secretary of State, or Chief Justice of him as States. In fact, if I am understood, would say he is too great a man, in one sense, or be President. It has been so with Clay. So metimes republics have to adopt the policy of the Cardinal's College, and elect a small man, that he princes of the church, and the kitchen cabinets of the day, may have each a small the one to sit on, and each be President or Pope. In a small way. In this way Gen. Harrison, Mr. Van Buren, Gen. Taylor, (small as a stateman,) and Mr. Polk, were elected, end John Colincy Adams, with Monroe, perhaps, for we have each seeman, and Mr. Polk, were elected, end John Colincy Adams, with Monroe, perhaps, for we have really had but three great Presidents—I mee at the greatest men of their times—viz. Washing, on, Jefferson and Jackson. Clay's friends have and it is confessed on all sides that he could fill the post as well as any of his prodecessors. And so with Mr. Websier. But after all, who really feels deeply anxious to have Webster elected! His personal friends.

and it is confessed on all sides that he could fill the poet as well as any of his prodecessors. And so with Mr. Webster. But after all, who really feels deeply anxious to have Webster elected? His personal frends.

Some things lie in the way of Webster's election besides his colossal intellectual power. He has the odor of old federalism about him. This is not much now, it is true; for even Buchanan once said if he had a drop of democratic blood in his veins he would open his arm and let it out; and yet Buchanan is thought to be a pretty good democrat now. But, for most of his 'life, Webster has been a local man—a New England statesman; chiefly eloquent about pilgrims, and banks, and a high tariff. It was only at the last session that he came out bold and clear on the broad platform of the nation. He threw Massachusetts overboard, and embraced the entire republic. He ceased to be a sectional—he became a national man. Now he occupies a very high position—morally still more grand than politically. But after all, he does not excite popular enthusiasm; he is not familiar, warm, genual, attractive or winning. The people do not feel personally attached to him, as they did to Jackson or Taylor. He ruises no shout where he goes; his name excites no enthusiasm. His words, like his form and brain, are massive, grand, im ressive, to fine minds. But they do not quicken the pulses of the masses. Common people do not feel as though they could get near him; nobody dares approach the sleeping lion but those who sleep in his cage. He is cold, dark, chilling, forbiding.

All this is bad for Webster. And there is more not, too, than his friends generally think of. His heart has not been with the multitude in their sympathies, nor with the nation in its progress. He has spent most of his life in trying to stop the atvancement of the republic. He fought like Hercules against the admission of Texas—he wielded his arm like a Titan to embarrass the Mexican war. He has battled free trade at every step. He is more than half an Englishma whose name will stir the blood of the millions on the shores of both oceans at once, like the blast of the bugle. Which shall it be, and who is the man? Webster will be likely to lose it, because he is neither the one nor the other.

Our Missouri Correspondence Sr Louis. February 1, 1851. Defeat of Senator Benton-How it was done-The Political Pulse in Missouri-Increasing Prospe

rity of St. Louis, &c., &c. As your humble correspondent predicted, through the columns of the *Herald*, three years ago, Mr. Benton has been beaten in his efforts to become a " Senator of thirty-six years standing," instead of "thirty;" and a whig, as I also then predicted, has been elected in his place. Of this I informed you by telegraph, on the date of its occurrence; but " how the thing works," now that the defeat of the free soil party is pretty well known, and how the whigs wear their blushing honors, are matters of which yourself and readers are not perhaps so well informed as an eye-witness is capable

of being. For several days before the termination of bal loting, it was thought by all parties that no election could be effected, and the seat in the Senate would remain vacant until the assembly of anothe legislature. This the Benton men desired, being convinced that, notwithstanding all the efforts of Col. Benton during his last tour through the State to conciliate the whigs, that party determined to remain united on their caucus candidate. This they had individually pledged themsolves to do; which, by the way, was very well for Geyer, as I will explain by and by. The anti-Benton democrats for a time, seemed resolved also to hold out, let the election go by default, and raily their strength for a new struggle two years hence. Many of them, however, stood pledged to their constituents to get rid of Col. Beaton at all hazards, even if the election of a whig became necessary to effect that purpose. While such were wavering between instruction and inclination, Mr. Geyer came out with his famous letter, endorsing almost every political principle of the anties, and literally unwhigging himself. The leading whigs in the legislature were struck aback at this, but they were pledged to support him. The anti Beaton men chuckled over his concessions, and the Benton men became alarmed. This Irtter decided the course of the wavering anti-Benton democrats—they could defeat Benton by voting for Geyer, and yet maintain their consistency with their own party. The whigs, too, finding they could elect a man of their party in no other way, smoothed Geyer's "apostacy" (as they call it,) over, and were willing to accept a name for a thing, and so, at the fortieth ballot, enough anti-Benton votes were drummed up to give Geyer a majority. Under these circumstances you can readily imagine how the thing "goes down" with all parties. The whigs, particularly the free soil portion of that party, see that they have nothing to hope from their new senator. He has acknowledged the right of instruction, and repudiated sppealing to the people. The Bentonites perceive that all is lost, so far as their cause in this State is concerned, and are loudly denouncing the anties and whigs, for uniting to defeat their darling senator. The to remain united on their caucus candidate.

to the people. The Bentonites perceive that all is lost, so far as their cause in this State is concerned, and are loudly denouncing the anties and whigs, for uniting to defeat their darling senator. The seties, generally, seem to think they have made the best of a doubtful bargain; and hope, now that Benton is out of the way, the democratic party may be eventually united. In justice to the Benton is members of the Legislature it must be said that they acted throughout, with one exception, manfully in the support of their candidate. There was neither twisting nor turning—it was "Ajax," or nobody. Never has a party obeyed the behests of a leader more faithfully than have the followers of Mr. Benton in Missouri. His word has been their will, and not always has it been that their faithfulness has met the reward of his "distinguished consideration." Neither "thrift," nor even common courtery, with them, has often followed "fawning." The "king sname" has been a "tower of strength," but he has fallen—and few there are who care aught for a dethroned monarch. This consideration gives hope to the anti-Benton democratis that the democratic party of this State may again be united; for, Mr. Benton out of the way, there is little difference between the two wings. His friends having stood by him till the last, and witnessed his annihilation, so far as Missouri is concerned, it is thought may deem their allegiance cancelled, and rather than continue a quarrel about nothing, unite with the other wing of the democracy to make common war against their old opponents, the whigs—unless, indeed, that party should become Geyerized, and leave nothing worth fighting for Indeed, politics seem rapidly tending this way in Missouri. Your Missour whig is a far different personage from your "dyed in the wool" eastern whig; in illustration of which fact, I will relate an anecdote:—

anecdote :-A few days since an eastern and a western whig

A few days since an eastern and a western whig were conversing upon the prospects of the whig party, the easterner all the time supposing that he was talking, with a democrat. At length being assured by his friend that he indeed was a whig, the cestern whig red, "well, you may do very well for a whig here, but darn me if you would not be called a loco down East."

While, as I remarked before, Mr. Benton's most sanguine friends believe him dead and buried politically, so far as Missouri is concerned, the true blue free soil portion of them, and in St. Louis they comprise the mass of his followers, by no means have abandoned the hope that he may be taken up as the Northern candidate for the Presidency in 1862. That Mr. Benton has aspired to this distinction long ago, meny of all parties now believe, though I was laughed at, three years ago, for predicting, through the Herald, that such was the game he was playing. This I then thought sufficiently shadowed forth by Mr. Benton's

"tete a-tating" with the free soil prostep he has paved the way for he formation of such a party in Missouri, but the test of relative strength came too soon, and his followers have been defeated and routed. I am no prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but I think there is not the most remote tisk in predicting that Mr. Benton can never get the vote of Missouri for the Presidency, nor of any other State acknowledging the constitutional right of slavery. But it seems doubtful to me, whether he ever could become the nominee of a convention, whether Northern or national. Were the free soil party of the North sufficiently strong to risk another Buffalo race, I immagine they would not select this distinguished ex-Senator for the trial. They would probably select some more reliable nag—some one that had never bolted. The free soil party has plenty of distinguished men, in whom it can repose implicit confidence. Then why select a man in whom, in the very nature of things, it could not confidently rely.

But enough of politics, and perhaps more than

But enough of politics, and perhaps more than But enough of politics, and perhaps more than enough of this long letter. Of local incidents, I have nothing worthy of especial mention. Things wag on as usual here. The winter has been very mild, until within a few days past, since which it has been quite inclement, and navigation is almost entirely suspended, the Mississippi being filled with immense bodies of ice. Our city goes on to improve rapidly, and the statistics of trade for the last year, show unexampled prosperity. Real estate is advancing rapidly in value, and it is a rare thing to see a store or swelling untenanted. Indeed, we shall some be, if signs do not greatly fail, the New York of the Mississippi Valley.

Argus.

Our Battimore Correspondence.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 6, 1850. Public School Statistics-Sober Teachers-Case of

Inhumanity-The Ice Trade-Italian Opera, &c. The annual report of the Commissioners of Pub. ic Schools, of Bal imore, shows that the whole number of children now in daily attendance, is \$7,093, being an increase of \$30 over the number at the time of their last annual report. The whole number of teachers is 119, of whom 34 are men, and 85 females. Accompanying its report, is an and 85 females. Accompanying its report, is an estimate showing that the annual cost per pupil, in the Baltimore High School, is \$25-80, whilst in the Philadelphia High School, is \$25-80, whilst in the Philadelphia High School, average cost is \$18.75, in the Baltimore Female High School, average cost is \$5-63, and in the Philadelphia grammar schools, \$7. The annual average cost per pupil, in Baltimore, including High School, was \$6-33, and in Philadelphia, \$7-42

Speaking of the public school reminds me of the fact that one of the principal teachers can be seen every night strolling from tavern to tavera, and engaged in drinking, wrangling, and wrestling, up to the small hours or the morning. Above all other occupations, a school teacher should be a sober man, unless he wishes to hold himself up as an example for his scholars to shun.

example for his scholars to shun.

The Grand Jury have dismissed the charges of improper conduct on the part of Deputy Sheriff, Charles Loran, in the manner of summoning a jury

Charles Loran, in the manner of summoning a jury for the trial of a particular case.

On Tuesday night, a young female was found, at a late hour, seated on a step in the western section of the city, and carried to the watch house, where, shortly after her arrival, she was delivered of a child. She stated that she had been living with a lady, who, on discovering that she was about to be confined, drove her forth, at midnight, to the street. Verily, woman's inhumanity to woman is past all comprehension, especially when she has fallen from the paths of virtue.

The weather has become so mild that all the semblance of winter has disappeared, and a very

The weather has become so mild that all the semblance of wint'r has disappeared, and a very poor supply of ice has been secured by our dealers.

The Italian Opera Company are still here, and propose to give one more mammoth musical enter-tennment on Friday math; in connection with the Germania Musical Association, forming a vocal and instrumental force of nearly one hundred.

Murdoch commences an engagement at the Masseum, this evening, appearing as Claude Melnotte.

The Front Street Theatre is still closed, and will probably not be opened until Parodi comes here.

The Front Street The are is still closed, and will probably not be opened until Parodi comes here.

Amin Bry at Parsacola.—Amin Bey, the agent of the Turkish government, now in our city, accompanied by Mr. Brown, the dragoman of the American legation at Constantinople, has just returned from a visit to the Navy Yard and fortifications, at Pensecola. He left this city, in the mail bout, for Hail's Landing, and thence crossed, at night, in the stage coach, over perhaps the most unpleasant route in the Union. The character of the road was certainly not calculated to impress the distinguished Turk; with a very favorable idea of the means of travel in the interior of our country. We wish that the good people of Baldwin and Escambia cousties would take into serious consideration some method of ameliorating this route; and it is equally desirable, for the comfort of travellers, that some portion of the journey should be made in daylight, in place of total darkness, as at present. It is one long, uninteresting tide of from twelve to fitteen hours, in the worst coaches and over the worst road in the South; and we are sure that the Bey and his suit, with all their amiability, could find nothing to commend in this transition from Dan to Beersheba. Amin Bey was received at Pensacola, by Commodore Newton, as his guest, and was honored with a salute suitable to his mission. He expressed himself as highly delighted with his visit to the Navy Yard, where he received every facility for examining minutely the extensive and very important public works now under execution there. He was much interested in the laborious operations of making a permanent wharf; and, in company with the civil engineer in charge of it, went down in a diving bell, to witness the method of laying the blocks of grante, some thirty feet under water, in a peculiar cement, of which the wharf is being made. He also examined thod of laying the blocks of granite, some threy feet under water, in a peculiar cement, of which the wharf is being made. He also examined closely the process of driving the piles, by steampower, into the sand, from thirty to forty feet deep; as also the excavation of the bastin for the magnificent fileating dock, which is being constructed. He went over the latter, in company with the agents and contractors of the patentee, and was much struck with the immensity of the fabric, and the evident utility which it offers to the harbor of the yard at Pensacoia. After inspecting the Navy Yard, the intelligent Envoy paid a visit to the two fortresses commanding the entrance to the Bay of Pensacola where he was received by Col. Whiting and his staff, with an appropriate salute. The new fort of Barrancas, he examined in detail, and was much gratified and interested in the military science shown in the construction. These statements, as much gratified and interested in the military science shown in the construction. These statements, as to the observations and opinions of the Bey, we make "by authority;" and must add that he expressed himself much gratified by the great kindness and and attention shown him by Commodore Newton and Col. Whiting, and their officers. Amin Bey, and suit, leave to day for Montgomery, on their way to Charleston S. C. We trust that they will be received everywhere with that courtesy and attention due to the elevated and commendable object for which they are now on a visit to the United States—Mobile (Aita) Register Jan. 30.

Barbarous Outrage upon an Infor Negro.—
A few weeks since an individual in Ghent, Carroll county, Ky, purchased three negroes—a mother and her two children—one of the latter, a girl some eight or nine years of age, being an idiot. In consideration of his taking the idiot child off the hands of the former owner, he got the mother and the other child at a very low price. The child was given into the hands of an old negro woman, in a cabin some distance from the owner's resithe hands of the former owner, he got the mother and the other child at a very low price. The child was given into the hands of an old negro woman, in a cabin some distance from the owner's residence, to be taken cars of. Having occasion, however, for the services of the woman about his premises, the idiot was left in the cabin alone. Finding it a great burden, he offered to give any one who would take it a hundred dolfars. This effer was promptly accepted by a man standing by, who, in his turn, ffered fifty dollars to any one who would take it from him. The offer was acceded to by a third person, who immediately offered twenty-five dollars to any one to take it on the conditions on which he had done. A customer was not long wapting—the bargain was struck, and the twenty-five dollars paid. The fellow into whose hends the idiot last fell, in company with another, proceeded to the cabin, some two miles distant, on a cold frosty morning, took the child out, almost naked and barefooted, and drove it before them the whole distance—her feet covered with blood from having been cut by the hard, frosty ground. The monsters took the child to a flat, or store boat, lying up there, and for a while amused themselves by placing her on a hat stove with the bare feet, burning them most horribly, and by lighting pieces of paper, and applying it to different parts of her body. The owner of the boat coming in, ordered the fellows to leave his premises, which they did. One of the rancals then procured a skiff, put the child into it, and proceeded down the river. He shortly after returned without the child; and upon being asked what he had done with it, refused to give any satisfaction. A flat boat coming along in the course of a few hours, he jumped into it, and has not since been heard of. The child was doubtless offered and paid the \$100 in good faith, believing it would be amply safficient compensation for the trouble of taking care of the idnot. He has offered a reward for the recovery of the child. It is to be hoped that the